



# *Town of Coventry*

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March 5, 2012

Public Safety and Security Committee  
Room 3600, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: HB 5378  
Maximum surcharge for E-911

Dear Committee Chairs and Members:

I am writing in favor of proposed HB 5378 which will authorize PURA/DPUC to consider the expenses to run a modern and efficient E-911 system and establish an appropriate rate.

The State's E-911 system is at a critical juncture. We desperately need to update both the hardware and software to run the system. Failure to upgrade is not an option since equipment is no longer manufactured and replacement parts are not readily available. The existing software does not address the changes in the way we communicate and does not link with instant messaging, tweets, email and video.

Connecticut has had the reputation of being a leader in emergency communication. If we fail to increase the surcharge authorization and trust PURA/DPUC to set an appropriate rate, we will not be servicing our citizens. Please approve this authorization.

Sincerely,



John A. Elsesser  
Town Manager

JAE/Is